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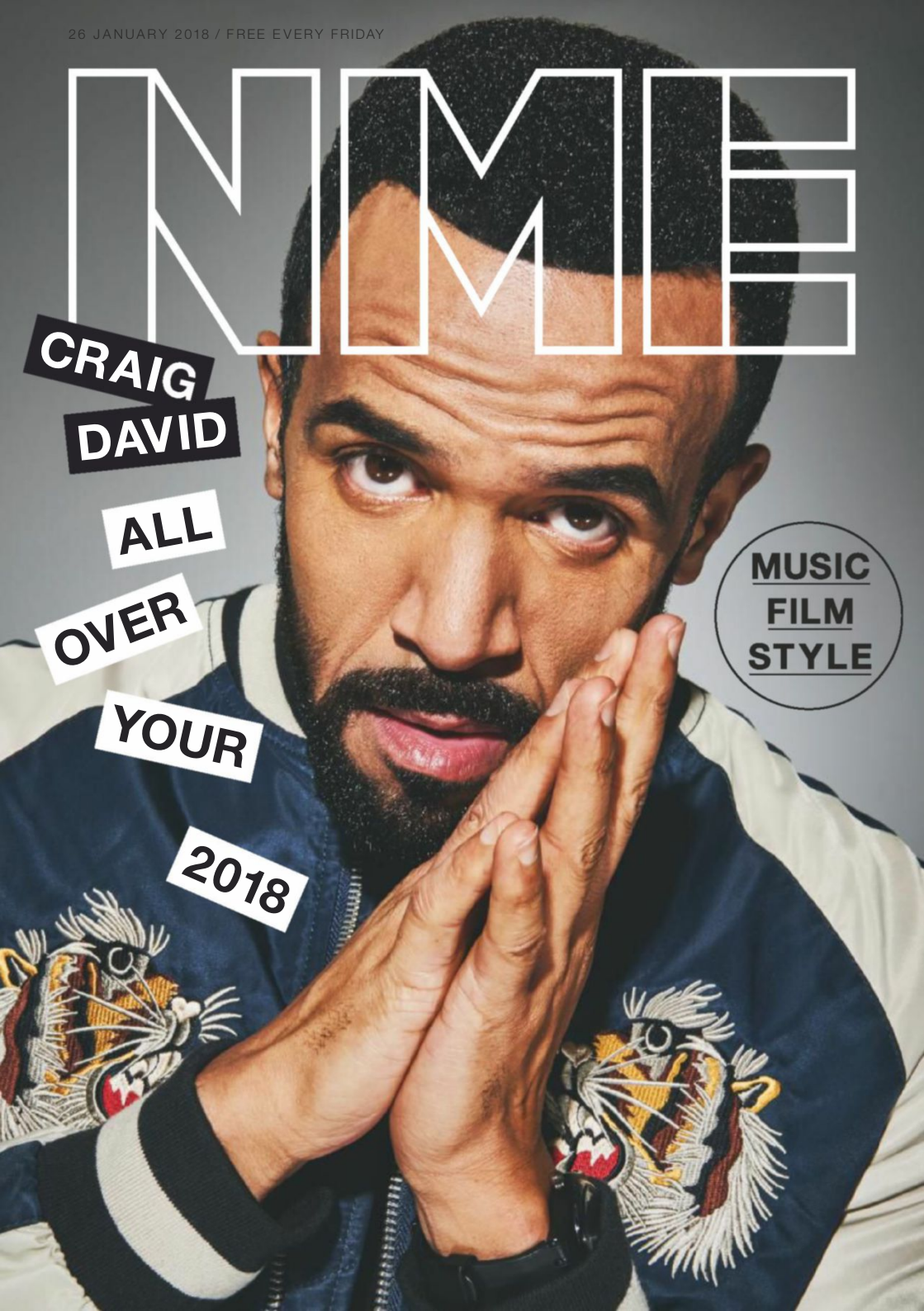
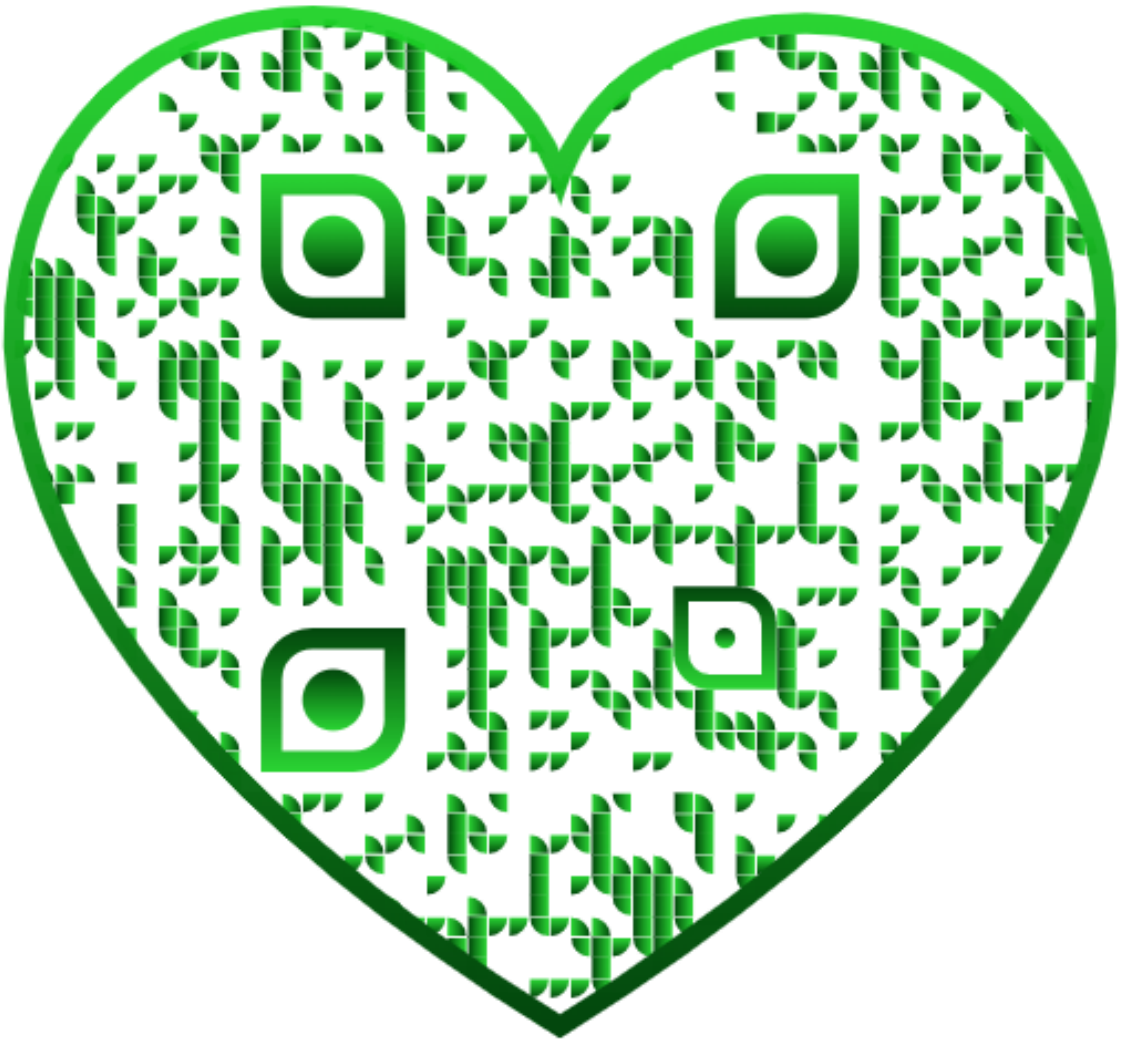
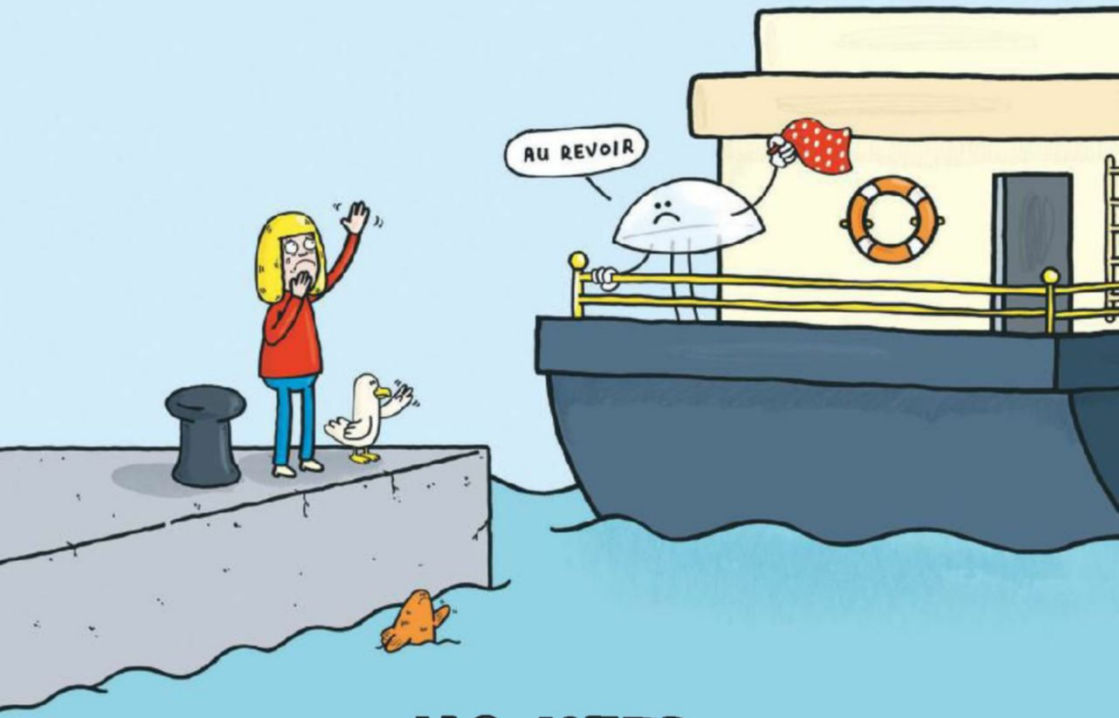
NME



CRAIG DAVID ALL OVER YOUR 2018

MUSIC
FILM
STYLE





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NME
NEW MUSICAL EXPRESS

Hello...

IT'S BEEN ALMOST 20 years since Craig David first made a name for himself on late-'90s garage classic 'Re-Rewind', and since then Southampton's finest has become a quintessential part of British culture. Good news is he's also an absolute hero too – when he popped into the *NME* office recently he made us all fall even more in love with him than we were before. With his seventh (seventh???) album, 'The Time Is Now', he's proved that he's no old-school throwback, bringing in Kaytranada, AJ Tracey and even Bastille to create one of the first excellent albums of 2018. And with records still to come from the likes of Charli XCX, Jack White, Arctic Monkeys and MGMT, this year is already shaping up to be huge.

Something that you may have noticed is not so huge this week is your issue of *NME*. As part of our partnership with the movie *Downsizing*, we've, well, downsized the magazine for one week only. Look at your hands, don't they seem enormous? Normal service resumes next week...

MIKE WILLIAMS
Editor-in-Chief
@itsmikelike

Jorja Smith p29

COVER STORY

22 **Craig David**
"You sober up real quick when the music gets weird, yeah?"

26 **Ed Miliband**
"Young people are showing they are determined to make their voices heard"

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Live 35

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COVER PHOTO: DEAN CHALKLEY. CONTENTS PHOTO: OLIVIA ROSE

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AGENDA

WHAT EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT THIS WEEK

How do you eat yours?

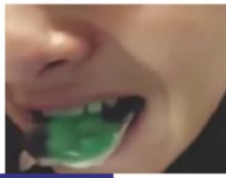
We have a reached a point in history where people need to be told not to eat laundry detergent

THE TIDE POD CHALLENGE is a phenomenon that has swept YouTube like the bout of diarrhoea it will undoubtedly inflict upon it participants. You film yourself eating a laundry detergent capsule (Tide is an American brand of the household staple), upload the idiocy to YouTube and watch as viral fame beckons. Is this a good idea? Absolutely not, as Tide and virtually every relevant authority has pointed out. A US government agency even felt moved to launch its own meme entitled "HUMAN PEOPLE UNITED AGAINST EATING LAUNDRY PODS" and warned, "Please don't eat laundry pods." We were promised hoverboards in the future, and instead we have this. There is, we've learned, more than one way to eat a pod. Behold the many guises of the Tide Pod Challenge.

WORDS: JORDAN BASSETT

VAPE IT LIKE A DOUCHEBAG

This video actually appeared on Instagram, deviating from the norm in that it depicts a fella attempting to smoke the detergent. Just when you though vaping couldn't possibly look any lamer.



WIND UP THE TIDE SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM

There have been hoax consumptions, too, with many people tweeting Tide with messages such as, "Help @tide i ate a tide pod because i lost a bet and now i feel like I'm burning a hole in my stomach." The company has been responding patiently to each message, the bloody heroes.

POP IT IN YOUR GOB LIKE A MONSTER MUNCH

One enterprising youngster uploaded a clip in which he looks distractedly off-camera as he shovels crisps in his mouth – except, ho ho, the third time around it is, in fact, a laundry pod. The joke's on you, my friend.

TRANSFORM A TIDE POD INTO JELLY POISON

One foodie mixed up PVA glue, food colouring and the contents of a Tide pod to make this heinous concoction. We'll stick to strawberry and ice cream, thanks Heston.

CHOMP ON IT LIKE A BREAKFAST BAR

One person Instagrammed a photo of a Tide spot pen – with which you dab individual stains – with the caption: "When you're late for work. But don't wanna skip breakfast." *facepalm*

AN NME DISCLAIMER

DO NOT DO THE TIDE POD CHALLENGE. IT IS INSANE AND COULD LITERALLY KILL YOU.

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GOOD WEEK

SHANE MACGOWAN
Actually made it to 60 and had Nick Cave play his birthday gig. Decent.

CARRIE BROWNSTEIN
The Sleater-Kinney member's 2015 memoir is being adapted for TV.

STEPHEN KING
A burst pipe destroyed a host of the horror don's manuscripts. Scary stuff.

JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE
Served up insects at his NYC album launch. What about Veganuary, JT?!

BAD WEEK

Please give Big Narstie his own TV show

He did *Good Morning Britain's* weather forecast – and there's no end to his small-screen talents

HE CREATED THE GREATEST PIECE OF TELEVISION OF 2017

Narstie was drafted in to liven up the Christmas edition of *This Week*, the BBC's staid political round-up hosted by human toadstool Andrew Neil. The south London MC donned a Santa hat, bellowed nonsense into a megaphone and delivered a colossal freestyle that included the line, "*Sexy, show me how you flex it / Are you ready to survive Brexit?*" Next stop: *Question Time*!

CRAIG DAVID IS INTO IT

And who are you to disagree with a man who measures time by shagging? He and Narstie teamed up for the Top 10 smash 'When The Bassline Drops' back in 2015 and Craig recently told us, "He's the funniest. Just – bam! Out it comes. He's got no filter. If he was asked to be in the *Celebrity Big Brother* house, he would win it. I look at him and think, 'You are destined for TV.'"

ROBBIE LOVES HIS YOUTUBE SHOW

Having troubles? Narstie is on hand with sage advice. Since 2012 he has hosted *Uncle Pain*, a YouTube series that sees him act as agony uncle, fielding viewers' issues such as "I think my girlfriend cheated in Napa." Even Robbie Williams, who last year released the Narstie collaboration 'Go Mental', is a massive fan. Robbie tells *NME*: "*Uncle Pain* made me laugh, so I wanted to meet him… Not only did I get to hang out with him, but he graced my track with some of his lyrics. It was a good day and I love him." That's right: he's loving Narstie instead.

THE MAN CAN DANCE

Please ask Google to show you the video in which Big Narstie talks us through the *extremely* accessible moves to his track 'The BDL Skank'. "It's a long-distance fat person dance," he says. "Any fat person can BDL Skank the whole night away and keep up with the vibes at Mo Farah stamina." Look, just give the man his f**king BAFTA.

HE MADE *CELEBRITY GOGGLEBOX* GOOD

Sharing a sofa with Ed Sheeran and Example on last year's *Celebrity Gogglebox*, Narstie was the episode's saving grace, laconically swilling cognac as he shouted 'Go on, Frankenstein!' at a contestant on the Halloween edition of *Strictly Come Dancing*. If Big Narstie can turn *Celebrity Gogglebox* into must-see TV, the man can do anything.

WORDS: JORDAN BASSETT. PHOTOS: REX FEATURES

HERE WE GO!
TAD
THE LOST EXPLORER
Cert TBC
And the Secret of King Midas
PREVIEWS FEB 3 & 4
IN CINEMAS EVERYWHERE FEB 9

Manic Street Preachers' Nicky Wire

Who's Nicky Wire voting for?

WOLF ALICE, FOR BEST BRITISH BAND
SUPPORTED BY ZIG-ZAG.

"They're such a proper band. As individuals they're really striking, but they come together as a band and form something really special. They really mean it. The record too is just amazing. 'Beautifully Unconventional' is like some '50s or '60s song with a modern edge. The lyrics are really good and as a band they just feel right. The bass player is such a dude. They toured with us in some big venues a few years ago too. They were lovely and just one of the best support bands we've ever had. They went down really well which is good because ours can be quite a challenging audience! They were just so brilliant."

Manic Street Preachers release new album 'Resistance Is Futile' on April 6, followed by a UK arena tour

Wolf Alice

WANNA VOTE? GO HERE: NME.COM/AWARDSVOTE

NME AWARDS SHOWS 2018

Live and loud

These bands could change your life

JANUARY
SHE DREW THE GUN
with support from
Big Joanie
Fri 26 Omeara

FEBRUARY
THE SHERLOCKS
with support from
Neon Waltz + Oddity Road
Fri 9 Electric Ballroom

SUPERFOOD
with support from
TBC
Mon 12 Scala

PEACE
with support from
TBC
Tue 13 Omeara

PUBLIC ACCESS TV
with support from
Fehm + Whenyoung
Thu 22 Oslo

FRANZ FERDINAND
+ special guest
Albert Hammond Jr
Sat 24 O2 Academy Brixton

PARK HOTEL
with support from
Modern Strangers + Ryder The Eagle
Tue 27 Moth Club

YONAKA
with support from
Findlay
Wed 28 The Garage

MARCH
A2
with support from
TBC
Thu 1 Koko

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Tue 6th	Mar	Leeds	O2 Academy
Thu 8th	Mar	Glasgow	Barrowland
Fri 9th	Mar	Manchester	O2 Apollo
Sat 10th	Mar	London	Alexandra Palace

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everything-everything.co.uk
New Album **A FEVER DREAM** out now

L-r: Eddie Redmayne, Maisie Williams, Nick Park

Prehistoric thoughts on very modern concerns

From Eddie Redmayne and Maisie Williams, who play cavepeople Dug and Goona in new Stone Age-based film *Early Man*

VEGANUARY

Eddie Redmayne: "My character, Dug, loves all animals and even the creatures he is chasing end up getting the better of him. So he's really quite a kind carnivore."
Maisie Williams: "It is probably a lot easier than we think it is. Can you imagine just chilling and not having to go hunt that boar? That'd be great. So easy."

GENDER EQUALITY

ER: "Goona, who is Maisie's character, is the greatest talent in the team. That says a lot."
MW: "Well, in this particular story the female character is far more capable. But I like that it's not surprising, like, 'Oh, you're a girl, how can you play football?' We don't need that anymore. Everyone knows that women are capable. It's far more forward-thinking when it's not referenced 24/7."

SEXTING

ER: "They are very good at creating their own personal enjoyment. I suppose that could teach us a thing or two about sexting…"
MW: "If you can't say it in person, you shouldn't say it. You've got to hold that confidence everywhere you go."

BODY IMAGE

ER: "Love yourself. Within the tribe there are people of all shapes and not many sit-ups going on."
MW: "It has absolutely nothing to do with your wellbeing – the bigger, the better!"

FASHION

ER: "There are some pretty high-waisted trousers going on in this film. And remember, animal print is continuously in season."
MW: "Comfort is key! I live by that mantra. Oh, and fake fur is so in."

ANIMAL WELFARE

ER: "Big, oversized mallards tend to fight back…"
MW: "It depends which animal. I mean, in *Early Man* even the rabbit they're hunting and eating is having a great time. It's a bit strange actually!"

PARTYING

ER: "As with all things cave, it's about making use of your surroundings. It's really important to dance, learn to get on with the food you hunt and, of course, make your own drum. Any surface can be a drum."
MW: "It's fundamental, and everyone should dance, even if you can't."

Yeah, but… what is *Early Man* about?

Director, writer and animator Nick Park explains

"Plucky can-do caveman Dug [Eddie Redmayne] is a born optimist who sees the glass half-full in life. He lives with a quirky band of misfit cavemen in a beautiful, lush valley. One day, they're kicked out of their home by a mighty Bronze Age boss [Lord Nooth, played by Tom Hiddleston] who wants to mine the area. To win back their valley, Dug's tribe must beat the unbeaten Bronze Age team in a game of football."

***Early Man* is in cinemas now**

Lord Nooth (Tom Hiddleston)

INTERVIEWS: ALEX FLOOD

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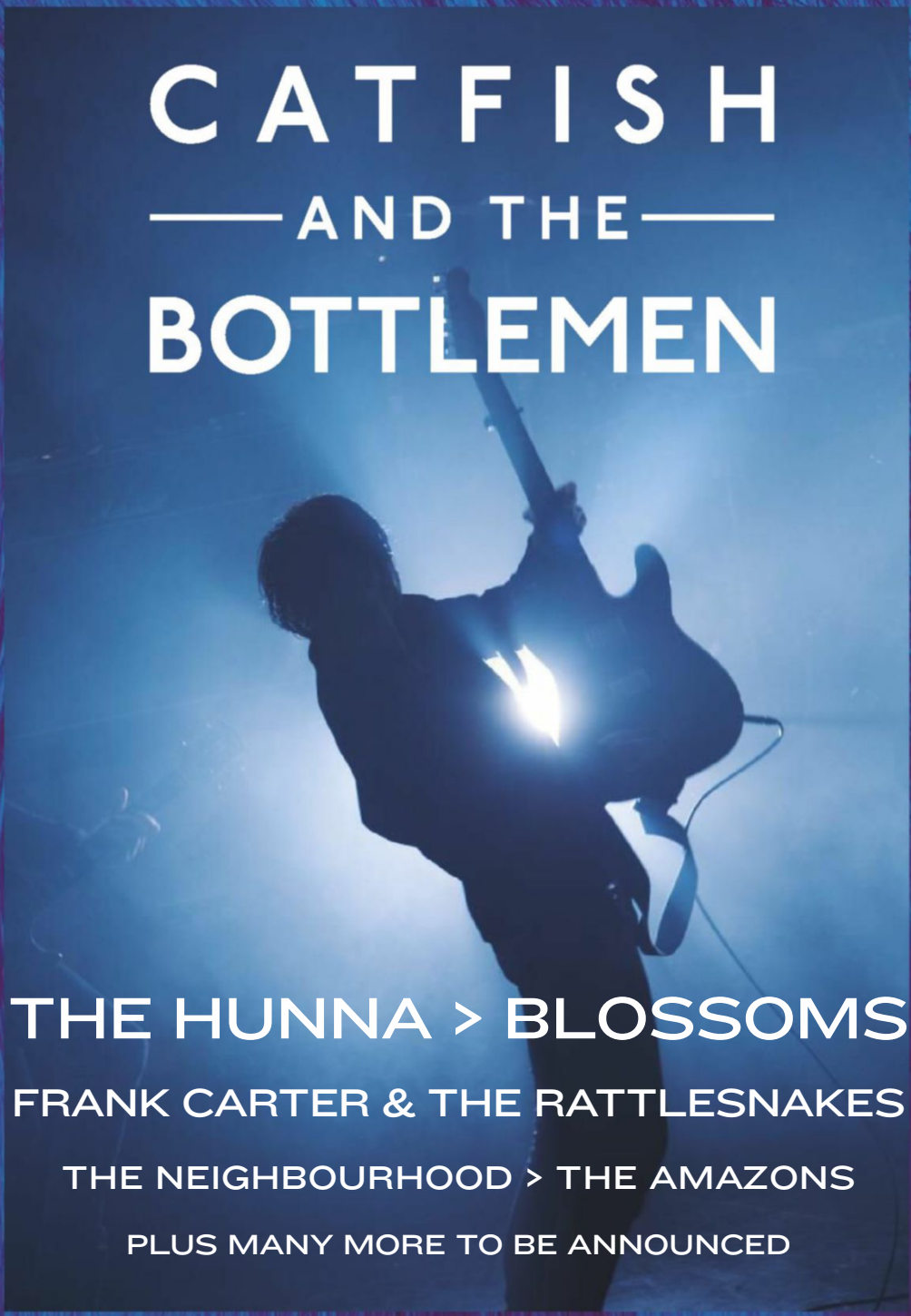
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THE NEIGHBOURHOOD > THE AMAZONS
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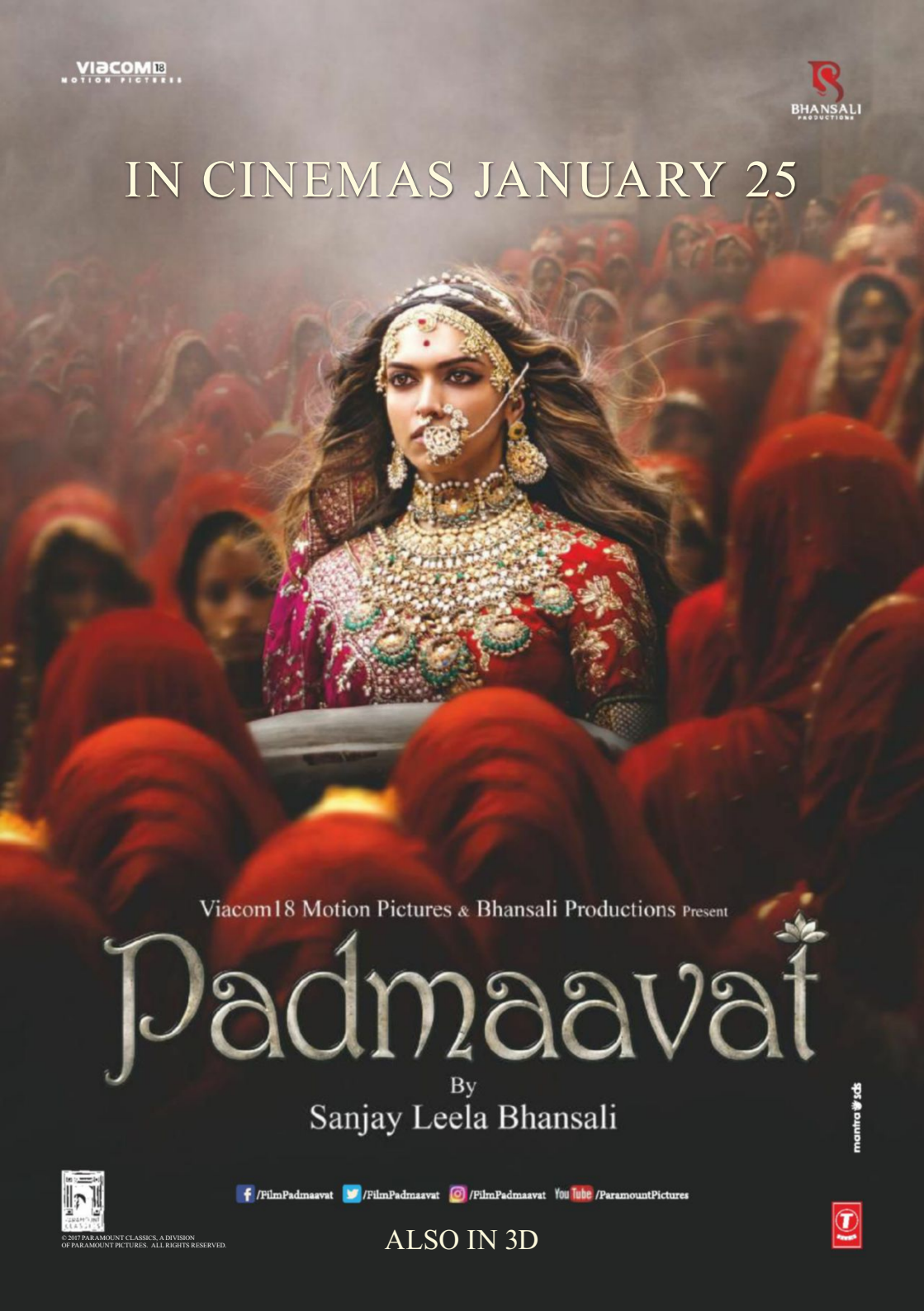

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ON THE RECORD

BIG OPINIONS. NO FILTER.

THIS WEEK

F**k yeah, The Distillers are back

THERE'S A MAGAZINE cover that I have so firmly etched in my memory that it's basically part of my DNA. It's not from *NME*, but rather a 2004 issue of the gone but not forgotten style mag *The Face*, where I was interning at the time. In the picture stands a woman in front of a *Phoenix Nights*-style glitter foil curtain, her face heavy with eyeliner and nonchalance, casually licking the head of a guitar. She's wearing leather trousers and a polka-dot bra, and her scruffy jet-black hair is swept into an acceptable mullet. In all honesty, it's the kind of magazine cover you probably couldn't get away with in 2018, what with its almost shameless conflation of female musicians and out-and-out sex, but when I saw that image, I knew I had a new hero. I went out and bought the very same Agent Provocateur bra, even though it cost something stupid like £70 and then I was too scared to wear it in case something happened to it. It remains in my underwear drawer, like some kind of bizarre tribute to the days when Camden Town was my everything.

Anyway, enough chat about my underwear. That hero was Brody Dalle, frontwoman of The Distillers, a caustic punk band from Australia by way of Los Angeles, the city she'd moved to as a teenager and where she still lives now. She was tough, talented and the perfect foil to the sugar-coated American pop princesses of the time.

After releasing records under her own name and as Spinnerette, earlier this month Brody announced that she'd be reforming The Distillers and playing a run of a US gigs and festivals. I was so happy I almost whooped out loud in the office. Oh, who I am I kidding – I *definitely* whooped out loud in the office. Expect that noise to be even louder when those UK dates finally come in.

In the early 2000s The Distillers were every teenage punk fan's fantasy band, releasing three albums across four years, fusing Brody's guttural vocals with her serrated guitar and angry, post-apocalyptic lyrics. Brody never sounded like she was having a good time, but the sheer intensity of her emotion made for a totally joyful release. Her music was the perfect diversion from another night of revision or for breaking in a new pair of Vans. Sadly, the group were not long for this world – The Distillers' major label debut 'Coral Fang' was their last record and the greatest punk band of the early 2000s split because of "a lot of infighting and [general] unhappiness", according to what Brody told *Rolling Stone* in 2009. She's almost certainly in a better place now. We can't wait to hear her channel her old-school rage later this year. **@leoniemaycooper**

"When I saw that image, I knew I had a new hero"

The Distillers destroying the O2 Academy Brixton, 2004

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Last W33K IN NUMBERS

125,000
Retweets it took to get *Stranger Things*' David Harbour to officiate at a fan's wedding.

£17
Price of Billie Joe x Kat Von D's 'Basket Case' eyeliner. Cue punks flocking to Debenhams.

$16,500
The monthly cost of renting out Rihanna's West Hollywood pad. Best. Landlady. Ever.

3
The Beastie Boys memoir is finally coming out this year – three years after it was due.

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/SherlockGnomesuk
SherlockGnomesMovie.co.uk

THINGS WE LIKE

THIS WEEK'S MINI OBJECTS OF DESIRE

It's a small world
Green Factory's terrariums make for the perfect tabletop ecosystems.
£60 *endclothing.com*

Storage solution
LOVESPACE will pick up your things to make more space.
From £1.95
lovespace.co.uk/NME

Waffling on
Make mini heart-shaped waffles with this glorious bit of kitchen kit.
£25 *urbanoutfitters.com*

Puppy power
A shot of BULLDOG gin in a teeny weeny bottle – perfect for a G&T on the go.
£2.99 *drinksupermarket.com*

Wonderful wax
Make your pad smell gorge with these three mini scented Diptyque candles.
£65 *spacenk.com*

Sack it off
The classic Kånken backpack has been shrunk. Ideal for your essentials.
£65 *urbanoutfitters.com*

Style icon
ghd's V Gold Mini styler is small but powerful – the perfect tool for perfect locks.
£99 *ghdhair.com*

On lock
Kat Von D's Lock-It mini duo includes concealer and powder for flawless skin.
£18 *debenhams.com*

Game boy
The Nintendo Classic Mini SNES has 21 pre-installed games. A retro delight.
£109.77 *amazon.co.uk*

Surround sound
The Google Home Mini smart speaker is cleverer than us. Say hello to your new god.
£49 *maplin.co.uk*

Cowboy garden
There's nothing wrong with a tiny prick, especially when it's attached to a cactus.
£3 *patch.garden*

Sure shot
Take wallet-sized snaps of your pals with a vintage-style instax mini 90 camera.
£129.99 *instax.co.uk*

Shots fired
Patrón XO Cafe Tequila is hands down the best way to drink coffee.
£4.89 *justminiatures.co.uk*

Beastie baby
Teach your children well by dressing them in a Beastie Boys babygrow.
£27.99 *kidvicious.co.uk*

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YOUR TOWN. YOUR MUSIC. YOUR STYLE

What's on your Headphones?

THIS WEEK

Hull

ELLIS TODD ›

25, cafe manager

LISTENING TO:
THE HUBBARDS
Body Confident
"It's really catchy and upbeat – the exact opposite of this time of year!"

Wearing: Vintage T-shirt, Dickies trousers.
Best thing about Hull: "Thieving Harry's does great coffee."

‹ LEON JOHNSON

26, vintage clothes shop manager

LISTENING TO:
THE HIVES
Blood Red Moon
"They're the greatest rock'n'roll band this generation has ever seen."

Wearing: Vintage cardigan, T-shirt and trousers.
Best thing about Hull: "Chinese Laundry is the place to be."

‹ HEATHER GAINEY

18, artist

LISTENING TO:
QUEENS OF THE STONE AGE
...Like Clockwork
"It's quite nice to be a bit sad in the morning."

Wearing: Topshop coat, Nasty Gal trousers, Converse trainers.
Best thing about Hull: "Spiders is the best club in the city."

"Spiders is the best club in the city"

LYDIA ROMANO ›

19, waitress

LISTENING TO:
JONATHAN RICHMAN
Because Her Beauty Is Raw And Wild
"It's a great travelling song."

Wearing: Vintage T-shirt and belt, Wrangler jeans, Nike trainers.
Best thing about Hull: "Humber Street is the best area. Lots of cool stuff to do."

PHOTOS: ANDY HUGHES

Tiny happy people

In new Matt Damon film *Downsizing*, Earth has too many people on it. The solution is simple: shrink everyone so they can live their best life. But what's it really like to live in Leisureland?

BEING ONE PERSON IN A massive city can make you feel tiny, like a minuscule speck in a vast world. What if being really small was actually a good thing? In *Downsizing*, the new film from Oscar-winning writer-director Alexander Payne, tininess is the answer to the planet's problems.

Scientists have found a way to safely shrink humans down to just a few inches tall. The smaller the person, the less waste they produce and the less stress they put on an overpopulated world. It's the greatest news for the environment since the concept of recycling. Downsized people are housed in bespoke cities where their every need is catered for. That's the other upside of being very little: smaller means cheaper. An average earner in a downsized world is a millionaire. You can afford a mansion (because it's the size of a dolls' house). You can drink champagne every night (because the amount you'll consume wouldn't even fill a shot glass). You'll never have to work again (because your yearly outgoings probably cost less than a month's rent on a decent two-bed).

In the film, Paul Safranek (Matt Damon) thinks downsizing is the answer to all his prayers, solving his money worries and giving him the life he's always felt he should have. He moves to Leisureland, America's most popular downsized community. Naturally, Paul discovers that there's a little more to a happy life than a big house and having loads of money, and instead focuses on finding his true purpose in life.

DOWNSIZING

IN CINEMAS NOW

WELCOME TO LEISURELAND

We hope you have a pleasant stay. Here's what you can expect...

RENT IS CHEAP

The average London rent is in the region of £1,600 per month, or £19,200 per year. In Leisureland, that would translate to £1.6 million, buying you a penthouse apartment or a very spacious house with many bedrooms. And you wouldn't have to share with a weirdo you found through Facebook who never does the washing up.

TRAVEL IS, TOO

Travelling in London can cost around £1,960 per year. In Leisureland, that's £161,000. That's enough to fly first class to New York *every week*. NB That's for a seat on a full-sized plane, but you're tiny, so you can travel very comfortably in a seat about the size of a cup holder. Also, you won't need to work every day because you're rich now.

DRIVE THE CAR OF YOUR DREAMS

The average small, entry-level car costs in the region of £12,000 if you buy it new. The Leisureland equivalent is £984,000, which will buy you a McLaren Senna. It's not the most practical option for doing the big shop, but it'll feel that little more fun than a family hatchback.

THE WEATHER IS ALWAYS GOOD

Weather in Leisureland is carefully controlled because the whole city is covered, so birds can't steal the citizens. Rain can get in, but it's filtered so you don't drown when you get hit by a (now man-sized) blob of rain. The sun's harmful rays are blocked so you get all the light and none of the burn.

IT'S SUPER ECO-FRIENDLY

An entire town can fit into a piece of land about the size of a football pitch, so each year the whole of Leisureland will only produce the equivalent of a couple of bags of normal-sized rubbish.

YOU CAN EAT LIKE ROYALTY

The average weekly shop for a family of four costs around £55, or £2,860 per year. That equates to £235,000 in Leisureland, whose inhabitants barely need more than a crumb each day. Of course, you could buy exceptional food to eat at home, but why wouldn't you eat at the best restaurants every night?

LIVING LIKE KIM AND KANYE IS EASY

How's your shopping habit? Let's say, if we're being *extraordinarily* extravagant, that the most expensive thing you'd ever want would cost £3,000, for a bespoke suit, say. In Leisureland that would be just over £35. You could be dressed up like Kimye every day of the week.

YOU DON'T NEED TO WORK

Hardly anybody in Leisureland works. Because everything costs so little, you don't need much to get by. Instead you can spend your days playing tennis, surfing, hiking, rock climbing or riding the massive Ferris wheel that's in the middle of the city for some reason.

CRAIG DAVID'S GUIDE TO BEING RELENTLESSLY POSITIVE AT ALL TIMES

PHOTOS BY DEAN CHALKLEY

The R&B superstar's career has had ups and downs, but he's remained imperviously cheery throughout. Now he's back – again! – with 'The Time Is Now', his cutting-edge, uplifting and tirelessly fun seventh record. Jordan Bassett learns from him

CRAIG DAVID IS WEARING a watch that simply reads, 'NOW'. Despite his timepiece's impracticality, the pop legend arrives bang on time for his first *NME* cover shoot in 18 years. That came before his debut album – 2000's 'Born To Do It' – shifted more than 8 million copies, and before he was lampooned on the comedy show *Bo' Selecta!* from 2002-6. It was also before he moved to Miami and then re-emerged to release Number One album 'Following My Intuition' in 2016. His slinky follow-up, fittingly named 'The Time Is Now', is full of cutting-edge UK rap, indicating he's had his ear to the ground the whole time. Craig is the picture of positivity, his Zen-like patter as consistent as his impeccable hairline. Here are his lessons for living well.

USE SOCIAL MEDIA WISELY

CRAIG SAYS: "The news is very negative. What I'd love to hear is, 'Oh! A beautiful baby has just been born.'"

It's important to remember that Craig's initial experience of fame pre-dated Facebook and Twitter. He seems genuinely thrilled to receive messages from fans, and to be able to respond directly. Social media, of course, is both a source of delight and a place of peril – a fact not lost on Craig, who likens negativity on social media to relentless bad news on the TV. "Naturally I see people saying negative things about me," he admits. "Twitter is an enabler of free speech, so it's gonna go both ways. People tend to see the 0.01 per cent [of negativity] and they want to tap into it. It's like that *Black Mirror* episode about a liking system – you have to be very careful, because you can get into that world. You've got be balanced enough to see both sides of it, and to know what to engage with and what not to engage with."

Three positive facts about Craig David

1 In 2015, Craig hired an ice cream van for his 34th birthday. What's your flava?

2 In 2016, Craig and Paul Chuckle went viral after posing for a photo together at Common People Festival.

3 In 2017, Craig agreed to perform at a fan's wedding after she tweeted him every day for months.

CHANNEL YOUR INNER CHILD

CRAIG SAYS: "Children remind you that you've tried to grow up, be an adult, get too responsible and be all serious."

Craig recently 'Grammed a snap of himself a child, captioned, "Bursting into 2018 with all of my little Craig energy". He explains, "I could see such a happy little kid that had no worries in the world and didn't take anything too seriously. Kids are just like, 'I like this thing and I want to play with it.' They're like, 'I'm not really feeling this conversation – I'm just gonna walk over there.' You can take elements of what made you happy back then, and start to remember that that's who you really are."

DON'T HOLD GRUDGES

CRAIG SAYS: "If you hold grudges with people, it's the worst poison."

Craig was famously spoofed on '00s show *Bo' Selecta!*, named after Artful Dodger's 1999 smash 'Re-Rewind (The Crowd Say Bo Selecta)' on which Craig featured. Comedian Leigh Francis – as alter ego Avid Merrion – wore a rubber mask of Craig's face, had a kestrel called Kes and pissed himself often. It was surprisingly cruel, but Craig's typically chill about the whole thing. He hugged Francis at Fearne Cotton's wedding in 2015 and explains now, "I was just like, 'OK, the guy's taking the piss out of me and he's taking the piss out of everyone else on the show. He's a comedian – isn't that what comedians do?'" He does resent, though, that *Bo' Selecta!* turned 'Re-Rewind' into a punchline. "'Rewind' is a song of heritage, of culture. Now, for it to become [a joke]? That was only part where I was like, 'I'm not really feeling that.'"

SEEK OUT GOOD PEOPLE

CRAIG SAYS: "I wanna have a positive impact and bring in artists on the come-up. It gets me hyped!"

This 2.0 edition of Craig David is a dab hand at pulling in stellar collaborators. Indeed, his big comeback was jumpstarted when, in 2015, he joined comic garage MCs Kurupt FM in the BBC 1Xtra studio and freestyled his vintage megahit 'Fill Me In' over Skrillex, Diplo and Justin Bieber's 'Where Are Ü Now'. The new album boasts collaborations with pomp-pop purveyors Bastille and hotly tipped rappers GoldLink and AJ Tracey, while he's recently been in the studio with London MC Yungen. Yet one big dog has historically eluded our hero: Drake. He told *NME* about his desire to reel in the 6 God back at the BRITs in 2016, after the pair were introduced at a steakhouse in Los Angeles. "We had a mutual appreciation of each other," Craig says now. "I would love to work with him. I love his ability to go from the melodies to rapping – it's everything I grew up with."

FOLLOW YOUR INTUITION

CRAIG SAYS: "You know when something isn't authentic, or aligned, and it's not what you wanna be doing."

Many people spend years in therapy before they reach the level of self-knowledge and calm that radiates from Craig. He's never spent time on the analyst's couch, he says; with him, it all comes from within. "It's a realisation I had on the come-up. Most people know what their purpose is, but their mind will tell them a million stories [as to why they can't achieve it]. Like, 'You don't have the right contacts.' Well, look at my career. Talk about someone that doesn't have the right contacts! I was in a working-class family in a council flat with my mum, yeah? When I was a young kid in Southampton I'd tell my mates, 'I ain't going out raving with you, I need to finish this song.' What was it that told me to stay in? Something was intuitively saying to me, 'You've got a talented thing with your music here – keep doing for that a second.'"

TAKE A STEP BACK

CRAIG SAYS: "Any time you try to force something and it's not going right, just try to pull back from the puzzle."

2010's 'Signed Sealed Delivered' is at once Craig David's most basic record, and the curveball in his career. Who knew that the innovative R&B loverman's fifth album would be a bog-standard collection of Motown covers? There is a reason: having released two disappointing albums, Craig had found himself without a record deal. He was offered the chance to record a covers album – as Seal had done with enormous success a couple of years previously – and saw it as an opportunity to get back in the game. Alas, the response was predictably muted. "I wasn't being authentic to my real self," he says now. "There wasn't an option to go on and do another album. I said to myself, 'You were 'Re-Rewind', you were part of the culture – and now you're doing '(Sittin' On) The Dock Of The Bay'. You need to go away. Go live the dream, go party.'"

PARTY LIKE YOU'RE BORN TO DO IT

CRAIG SAYS: "Even when you've had a couple shots, you sober up real quick when the music gets weird, yeah?"

And party, reader, he most certainly did. Craig moved to Miami, drove around in a sports car and kicked it in the Stateside sunshine for a few years. He brought himself an apartment in the swanky Mondrian South Beach Hotel and fell into the velvet ropes of Miami nightlife. In time, however, the lustre of the VIP club scene wore thin. "I didn't like the elitist thing of being in the VIP area," he tells *NME*. "I didn't like the BS of people outside being somehow inferior to the people inside the rope." So he began to host parties in his apartment (don't worry – the walls were hurricane-proofed). He played everything from The Notorious B.I.G. to Nirvana to – get this – even 'The Macarena', and the numbers grew from 10 attendees to over 100. That's when he brought his club night, which he named TS5, to the masses.

LOOK FOR PATTERNS

CRAIG SAYS: "[My comeback] feels new and familiar at the same time. I get déjà vu."

Born To Do It lifts its title from 1971's *Willy Wonka & The Chocolate Factory*. Asked how Wonka makes his confectionery, a shopkeeper replies, "Do you ask a fish how it swims?… They do it because they were born to do it!" Rewatching the movie in 2016, Craig was stunned to discover that main character Charlie Bucket finds his Golden Ticket on September 30 – the very same date that 'Following My Intuition' came out. "I thought, 'Are you for real? I had shivers running down my spine.' The underlying tone of that film – the kid from the poor family, who feels that he's got as much chance as anyone else out there to win a Golden Ticket – is why I have such a strong affinity with it."

TAKE NOBODY FOR GRANTED

CRAIG SAYS: "With every person you meet, there is a new and exciting experience to be had."

Having brought the TS5 parties to the UK, Craig linked up with irrepressible London MC Big Narstie. Their track 'When The Bassline Drops' entered the Top 10, ushering in Craig's renewed success. "I'm grateful for what I have and the people around me," he says. "You and I are here, having this conversation and, OK, we know it's for the cover of *NME*. But I'm not gonna use this conversation to be like, 'OK, I'll pass you a couple stories, hopefully you'll give me a nice little write-up, and then we'll move on.' If I did that, I would reduce you [to] a means to an end. You're a human being. We're sharing dialogue together. This is how any relationship or friendship is built. That's *life*."

Born to collaborate

Craig on some of his fave people he's worked with recently

DAN SMITH FROM BASTILLE
'I Know You'
"When we both hit that melody, we looked at each other like, 'This is something special, man.'"

AJ TRACEY
'Somebody Like Me'
"The whole album is about the new wave. I've been watching AJ and thinking, 'Your style is not locked in.' He's a UK rapper who can try on different a style and always hold it with grace."

KAYTRANADA
'Live In The Moment' feat. GoldLink
"His album ['99.9%'] is very instrumental, but [this track is] very melody-based. GoldLink was like, 'This is sick! Who produced this? Kaytranada! Oh man!'"

GOALS ARE OVERRATED

CRAIG SAYS: "What I've realised is that goal posts constantly shift. It's not about achieving a goal every time."

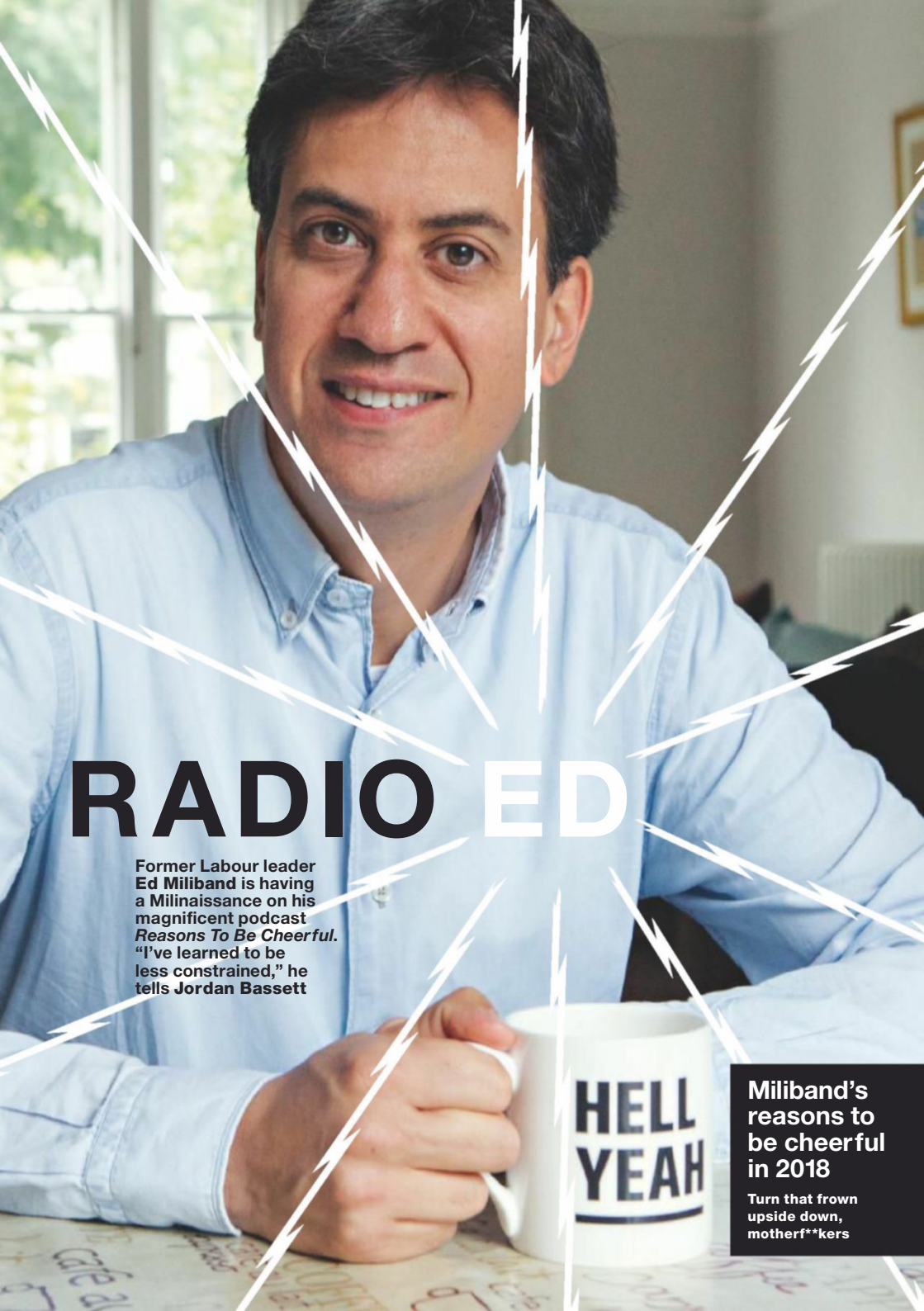
Few artists manage what Craig David has achieved since 2015. It's one thing to come in from the wilderness (OK, Miami) and remind people of your legacy while also pushing forward creatively, but another to translate that into a Number One album and an impressive follow-up stuffed with top talent. Is he afraid he might run out of steam again, as he did in 2010? Nah! "When you first come out of the box," he says, "you want to play the 300-capacity place, then it's 1,600-capacity, then it's an arena – so, do you want to be in a stadium now? The ego keeps telling you that it's not enough." Instead, he's learned to appreciate "this moment today". That watch is more than an eccentric fashion statement: it's a reminder about living life the Craig David way. If you want to follow suit, the time is always now.

NME

Craig's new album, 'The Time Is Now', is out now

"'Re-Rewind' is a song of heritage"

STYLING: ALEXIS KNOX. GROOMING: ALESHA LEDEATTE-WILLIAMS



RADIO ED

Former Labour leader Ed Miliband is having a Milinaissance on his magnificent podcast *Reasons To Be Cheerful*. "I've learned to be less constrained," he tells Jordan Bassett

Miliband's reasons to be cheerful in 2018

Turn that frown upside down, motherfkers**

WHEN ED MILIBAND resigned as leader of the Labour Party in May 2015, having been crushed by the David Cameron's Conservative Party in the general election, he was widely seen as too robotic and weird to take his place on the world's stage. Now, though, he's having a Milinaissance – his political podcast, *Reasons To Be Cheerful*, has turned him into a cult hero. Co-hosted with radio presenter Geoff Lloyd, the show sees experts and comedians thrash out ideas that could improve the world, revealing Ed as witty, warm and – best of all – blisteringly outspoken. But is he tough enough for an *NME* grilling? Hell yeah!

What have you learned through doing the podcast?
"That it's fun! Hopefully some of that enjoyment rubs off on people. It's an era for big ideas to change the country for the better."

You seem a lot freer on the podcast than you were as leader of the Labour Party...
"[The leadership] is a highly responsible job where you have to weigh every word. You're operating in a political war zone… Now, I freely acknowledge that I probably felt too constrained by that. That's something I've learned: to be less constrained."

Do you think people feel warmth towards you because they think, 'If the 2015 election had gone differently, Brexit wouldn't have happened and we wouldn't be in this mess?'
"Yeah. Of course you always have things you can regret, but I don't regret the position I took on the referendum. I don't think it was the right thing for the country and, you know, things would have been different. But people made their choice and in a way we have to deal with what we have."

You performed A-ha's hit 'Take On Me' as part of the comedy panel show *The Last Leg*. Were you living out any latent pop star fantasies?
"It's fair to say that I was hesitant about doing it. I thought, 'This is a departure'. I needed some persuading to do it. In the end, I had no choice. And once you enter the spirit of these things, it was a piece of fun, really."

What other music are you into?
"George Ezra. He turned out to be a fan of the podcast, though I don't just like him *because* [of that]. I've got eclectic taste. I'm into all kinds of '80s stuff – everything from Billy Bragg to A-ha."

Does it rankle when you see right-wing press give the Tories a free pass on their energy cap, but balked at the idea when you suggested it?
"I roll my eyes when that happens. When your opponents adopt your ideas, it's a compliment. I did this speech in 2011 about predatory capitalism; it was all very controversial at the time, but you wouldn't find anyone now who says that there aren't predators. It's funny because lots of people say, 'Don't you gnash your teeth and think, "Those b*****ds"?', but I'm just so used to it. That's the reality I was dealing with every day for five years."

Are you jealous of Jeremy Corbyn's success?
"No. You tip your hat to Jeremy Corbyn for what he achieved and the way he inspired lots of young people to get engaged with politics. I think that's actually a real reason to be optimistic. *Reasons To Be Cheerful* definitely reflects what I feel. There are reasons to be worried about the country, obviously, but there are reasons to be cheerful."

Should Trump's state visit go ahead?
"I'm not personally in favour of [it], no. I fear it will go ahead and we should have the biggest protest that the country's ever seen to make clear what people think of him and what he stands for."

PHOTO: RORY LINDSAY

"You tip your hat to Jeremy Corbyn for what he achieved"

Do you sympathise with Theresa May's inability to be harsher in her criticism of him?
"No. She made a terrible mistake from the beginning. Because we were leaving the European Union, she decided that the right strategy was to cosy up to Trump and buy his chlorinated chicken. That was the wrong strategy. Angela Merkel isn't falling over herself to welcome him to Berlin. What are we going to get out of it? In the end, America is going to come back to working with the international community properly when Trump goes. On climate change, the Middle East, what he did in relation to Jerusalem – he's out there on his own, on the fringes."

Corbyn connected with people on social media. A podcast is non-traditional media that connects with people. Is all this part of the waning power of traditional outlets such as the tabloid press?
"There are ways around them now. These people are worried about the power of the consumer to go elsewhere. I think that's a good thing. But – don't underestimate these people. They are absolutely ruthless in pursuing their agenda. These are grim, grim people. They will do anything to try and get their way. And they've got no ethics."

***The Sun* famously mocked you for eating a bacon sandwich in a weird way. When did you last have one in public?**
"I think on *The Last Leg*. My Christmas card had a picture of me eating a bacon sandwich – I'm reclaiming the image."

NME

***Reasons To Be Cheerful* is available to download on iTunes and all good podcast apps**

1 YOUNG PEOPLE
"Whether it's in Britain or the United States, young people are showing they are determined to make their voices heard and take control of politics and society. The surge of support for Corbyn, the protests against Trump, the #MeToo movement."

2 CLEAN ENERGY
"Started just five years ago, the divestment campaign to stop financial institutions investing in oil, coal and gas is now supported by controllers of assets worth $6 trillion. At the same time, the cost of solar and wind power is plummeting, making it the economic as well as environmental choice."

3 TRUMP'S ON THE SKIDS
"Ignore the tweets. Trump's got the lowest approval ratings of any President ever, his tax cuts are deeply unpopular, he lost key elections in 2017 and could get thumped in the mid-term elections for Congress. And that's before even get to the Russia investigation…"

4 TRANSGENDER RIGHTS
"There's cross-party support for reforming the Gender Recognition Act and giving better rights to trans people… I'm optimistic we can advance this important part of the LGBT+ agenda in 2018."

5 PODCASTS
"Not just mine. *Slow Burn* (about the US Watergate scandal of the 1970s), *Pod Save America*, *Adrift* (it's my co-host Geoff's 'other' one) and the godmother of them all, *Serial*… It's the year of the pod!"

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RADAR

THIS WEEK'S ESSENTIAL NEW RELEASES

Best NEW tracks
And when to drop them

BEST FOR CLEARING YOUR HEAD
RUDIMENTAL
These Days
Jess Glynne, Macklemore and Dan Caplen all feature on this sweetly grooving post-break up shot of redemption.

BEST FOR BATTING AWAY THE BLUES
TOM MISCH
Water Baby
Rapper Loyle Carner joins his buddy Tom for some jazzy, J Dilla-inspired old-school lushness.

BEST FOR BEING HEART EYES EMOJI
KAREN O
Yo! My Saint
The Yeah Yeah Yeahs icon joins up with Michael Kiwanuka and the result is a very special love song indeed.

BEST FOR WINDING DOWN
FENNE LILY
On Hold
Fans of Marika Hackman will dig Bristol-based songwriter Fenne Lily's ragged guitar and sweet vocal combo.

BEST FOR BOPPING
SYLVAN ESSO
PARAD(w/m)E
Sylvan Esso do their addictive electronic pop thing to perfection on this wackily titled belter.

PHOTO: OLIVIA ROSE

BEST FOR GLUM TIMES
JORJA SMITH FEAT. STORMZY
Let Me Down
2018 one-to-watch Jorja layers up her yearning piano ballad with a moody guest spot from Stormzy.

BEST FOR GETTING SLINKY
KALI UCHIS
After The Storm
Kali is joined by Tyler, The Creator and funk king Bootsy Collins on this Badbadnotgood-produced soul smash.

BEST FOR THE DOCTOR'S WAITING ROOM
EDITORS
Magazine
Flicking through a copy of *Reader's Digest* has never sounded so intense. 'Magazine' makes for a ballsy return for Editors.

BEST FOR GETTING SPIRITUAL
COURTNEY MARIE ANDREWS
May Your Kindness Remain
Cool country singer Courtney brings in a gospel groove, ending up midway between Dolly Parton and Whitney Houston.

BEST FOR ROAD TRIPPING
LUCY DACUS
Addictions
Turn this propulsive guitar rocker up loud and hit the nearest highway. Endless fun.

FOR MORE NEW MUSIC, GO TO NME.COM

L-r: Alice Go, Rakel Mjöll, Bella Podpadec

ALBUM OF THE WEEK

'Til death do us party

Genius punk-pop celebration music

DREAM WIFE
Dream Wife
★★★★★
PUNK POP FEMINISM

GOD *DAMN* HAVE we been waiting a long time for a band like Dream Wife. They've got the art school cred – they all met while studying down in Brighton but are now based in London – they've got the slamming tunes and they've got the kind of attitude that, were you able to bottle it and sell it to shy and retiring 14-year-olds, you'd make millions. 'Cool' is a word that's chucked about far too lightly these days, but cool is what Dream Wife are.

The trio are made up of Rakel Mjöll on lead vocals, Alice Go on guitar and Bella Podpadec on bass, and their glimmering punk-pop is the most exciting thing you're going to hear this dreary January, and likely all 2018.

Not since Yeah Yeah Yeahs burst out of Manhattan in the early 2000s in a blaze of fishnets and glitter has punk rock been as downright fun.

From the opening coos of 'Let's Make Out' to the hammered-out closing chords and screams of the excellently sweary 'FUU', this is a record that revels in spontaneity and the sheer magic of three best friends getting together in a studio and having the time of their lives. That in itself would be enough for an album to be good, but the fact that the songs are lick, riff and catchy chorus-packed makes it great.

'Somebody' – which takes on women's autonomy of their own physical form ("*I am not my body / I am somebody*") – mixes a fluffy sound with a hard-hitting message, while the incendiary 'Fire' lets the trio's lush melodies float over sturdy guitars which conjure up 1990s legends L7, The Breeders and Elastica all at once.

Proof that Dream Wife make unabashed celebration music is there in all 11 tracks, but the clap-along 'Hey Heartbreaker' and "*woo hoo*"-ing 'Kids' are the ones that deserve pole position on your next rowdy party playlist. Dream Wife are one hell of a proposal.

Leonie Cooper

FOR FANS OF

PHOTOS: DAN MARTENSEN, FIONA GARDEN, STEVE GULLICK

Bet that this sounds good on the dancefloor

Bangers everywhere

DJANGO DJANGO
Marble Skies
★★★★☆
POP SYNTHS THE FUTURE

DJANGO DJANGO, A London four-piece often decked out in matching sci-fi T-shirts like a krautrock beach volleyball team, are masters of merging flesh and diode. Earlier albums have sounded like a bunch of twitchy cyborgs playing rootsy rock'n'roll tunes, or a load of '50s Link Wray licks and '90s Beta Band albums uploaded onto a malfunctioning streaming service.

Plenty of this kind of febrile retro-futurism still abounds on third album 'Marble Skies': 'Further', 'Champagne' and the irrepressible 'Tic Tac Toe' could be The Bees on whatever synthetic drug the dark web will come up with in 2056. But Django also indulge their synth side more than ever here, and it's then that they feel most AI-proof, exposing the wounded heart pumping within their exoskeleton. 'Beam Me Up' finds singer Vincent Neff in full-on Depeche mode, lost and alone in a synth noir wasteland: "*Nothing sees me / No one can hear me / Somebody beam me up*", he intones, like a stranded Vulcan.

While their peers Alt-J are busy exploring experimental textures, DD occasionally expose more mainstream ambitions on 'Marble Skies'. The likes of 'In Your Beat' and 'Real Gone' are unapologetic dancefloor bangers and the Latino pop of 'Surface To Air' feels like a cynical attempt to lure unsuspecting Shakira fans into their art-pop web. But this fresh commercialist bent is tempered by the lusher tones deployed on 'Sundials', a hazily euphoric track that has a damn fine stab at being a techno 'Pet Sounds'. The future sound of 2012 is mating here with the current sound of Yates' wine lodge, and quite possibly creating the sound of 2018.
Mark Beaumont

L-r: Dave Maclean, Vinny Neff, Tommy Grace, Jimmy Dixon

Rebellion songs

Sharp, smart, angry tunes from Yorkshire

MARMOZETS
Knowing What You Know Now
★★★★☆
ROCK RETRO RIFFS

MARMOZETS' attempts to bring math-rock to the masses is what's made them so appealing. Their complex, time signature-hopping riffs and rebellious, catchy lyrics help the Yorkshire quintet stand out as a band who refuse to be pigeonholed.

Four years after 'The Weird And Wonderful Marmozets', they're back with 'Knowing What You Know Now'. They're still genre-twisting, but their focus has shifted slightly from complexity to short, punchy riffs that recall some of the bands that producer Gil Norton has worked with previously: Pixies, Foo Fighters, The Distillers.

Opener 'Play' throws back to riot grrrl's glory days as singer Becca Macintyre shrieks over a driving beat, summing up her intentions perfectly: "*I don't dance 'cos I want to / I dance 'cos I need to*".

Becca's frenzied squeak on 'Major System Error', an impressive slice of sped-up garage punk with added trumpets, gives way to a sugary drawl on 'Insomnia', while 'Lost In Translation' sees the band capturing the cynical jollity of The Dandy Warhols.

Much of the surprisingly retro sound undoubtedly comes from Norton's production techniques, but at no point does 'Knowing...' sound dated. In fact, it marks Marmozets out as a band who aren't afraid to play with their sound. "*Run with the rhythm,*" sings Becca on the closing track of the same name. And that's exactly what they do.
Thea De Gallier

L-r: Sam Macintyre, Will Bottomley, Becca Macintyre, Jack Bottomley, Josh Macintyre

L-r: Thomas (Dylan O'Brien), Jorge (Giancarlo Esposito), Frypan (Dexter Darden), Newt (Thomas Brodie-Sangster), Brenda (Rosa Salazar)

Safe but satisfying

A fun and unpretentious finale to the trilogy

MAZE RUNNER: THE DEATH CURE

12A *Dylan O'Brien, Kaya Scodelario, Thomas Brodie-Sangster*

★★★☆☆

TRILOGIES DYSTOPIA FUN

THROUGH PURE BAD luck, the *Maze Runner* trilogy is a bit late in wrapping up. The previous instalment, *The Scorch Trials*, came out in 2015. A serious on-set injury to star Dylan O'Brien (he is evidently fine now) delayed production on *The Death Cure*, giving a near three-year wait. Even if it's coming well after the series' moment has passed, and when all but the most dedicated fans will have lost track of the plot, the concluding part is a safe but satisfying closer.

To catch up the casual viewer, the story of *The Maze Runner* is a bit like *The Hunger Games* x *The Walking Dead*. The world has been ravaged by a virus that turns people into crazed zombies, as all futuristic viruses apparently must. A tiny percentage of the population has been identified as immune and some were put into a maze to be studied, in the hope of developing a cure. They escaped, found the world turned to absolute crap and vowed to find and confront the people who were prepared to let them die so that others might live.

It opens with a rescue mission that is spectacular enough that it's hugely enjoyable even if you can't remember who is being rescued, by whom, and why. It's like a low-key *Fast And The Furious* set-piece. Action is kept fairly high in the mix throughout, and even though it's well over two hours long it hardly feels sluggish or bloated.

FOR FANS OF

The plot very rarely takes a surprising turn – you could have a bash at identifying those who won't survive within about half an hour – but it treads its familiar beats confidently. The cast, who are meant to be teenagers, all look very much like the 20-somethings they are, but they're all talented and charismatic, so who cares if they look nearly a decade older than they're playing. Let's put it down to the stress of apocalypse.

Most YA movie series fizzle out toward the finish – *The Hunger Games* concluded on a flat note; *Twilight* ended ridiculously and *Divergent* had its final film cancelled. Although it's significantly belated, *The Maze Runner* has found its way to the end in a better state than most, as fun and unpretentious as it was at the beginning.

Olly Richards

PHOTO: ALAMY, MARLON MUNOZ, JAMES MCCLOUD

Under the RADAR

YOU HEARD IT HERE FIRST

Jessie Reyez

R&B star who's worked with Calvin Harris

RISING CANADIAN musician Jessie Reyez capped off her huge 2017 with the giant singles 'Phone Calls' and 'Cotton Candy'. Here, the 26-year-old talks songwriting inspiration and sexual harassment in the music industry.

How were you feeling when you wrote 'Phone Calls'?
"I was fed up and I was angry. You can feel when someone's being synthetic, and I was angry because I could feel a lot of people being synthetic with me about the time when we went into the studio to write this song."

Do you find that happens a lot now?
"It's a part of success. I very much mean it with all the sincerity I can muster: I'm not completely mad at the new love. I love that people are connecting with me, sending me messages and telling me that it changed the energy of their day. That means a lot to me, but at the time it was very hard and difficult for me to swallow."

Has the internet changed how you release music?
"I'm a fan of leaving people hungry. If I gave them a piece of cake and the cake is *fire*, they're not going to be like, 'Alright, give me something else', they're going to be like, 'Give me some more cake'. So for me, I prefer to do it this way and make it as concise and as potent as I can."

Your song 'Gatekeeper' has got more attention recently – what's the story behind it?
"Some s**t that happened to me about five years ago. [It's] about sexual harassment in the music industry. It's a satirical perspective from the abuser, and it is f**ked up. I was happy that it was connecting, but I was also sad because it's been over five years [since the song was written] and look at the climate we are in right now and the fact that it still resonates and is causing a reaction." **Thomas Smith**

DETAILS

From: Toronto, Canada
Social: @JessieReyez
Buy: 'Phone Calls' is out now
Live: O2 ABC, Glasgow (Feb 5), O2 Academy Brixton, London (Feb 7), Academy, Manchester (Feb 8), all with PartyNextDoor

Best track

'PHONE CALLS'
Reyez calls out the fakers on this slinking R&B jam.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

She saw in the New Year by playing a gig on Niagara Falls, with the mercury dipping as low as -15°C.

FOR FANS OF

new music

FOPP

album of the month

nils frahm
all melody
out now

django django
marble skies
out now

nightmares on wax
shape the future
out now

joan as police woman
damned devotion
09/02/18

field music
open here
02/02/18

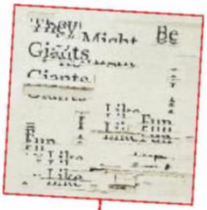
turin brakes
invisible storm
out now

first aid kit
ruins
out now

black rebel motorcycle club
wrong creatures
out now

calexico
the thread that keeps us
out now

franz ferdinand
always ascending
09/02/18

tune-yards
i can feel you creep into my private life
out now

they might be giants
i like fun
out now

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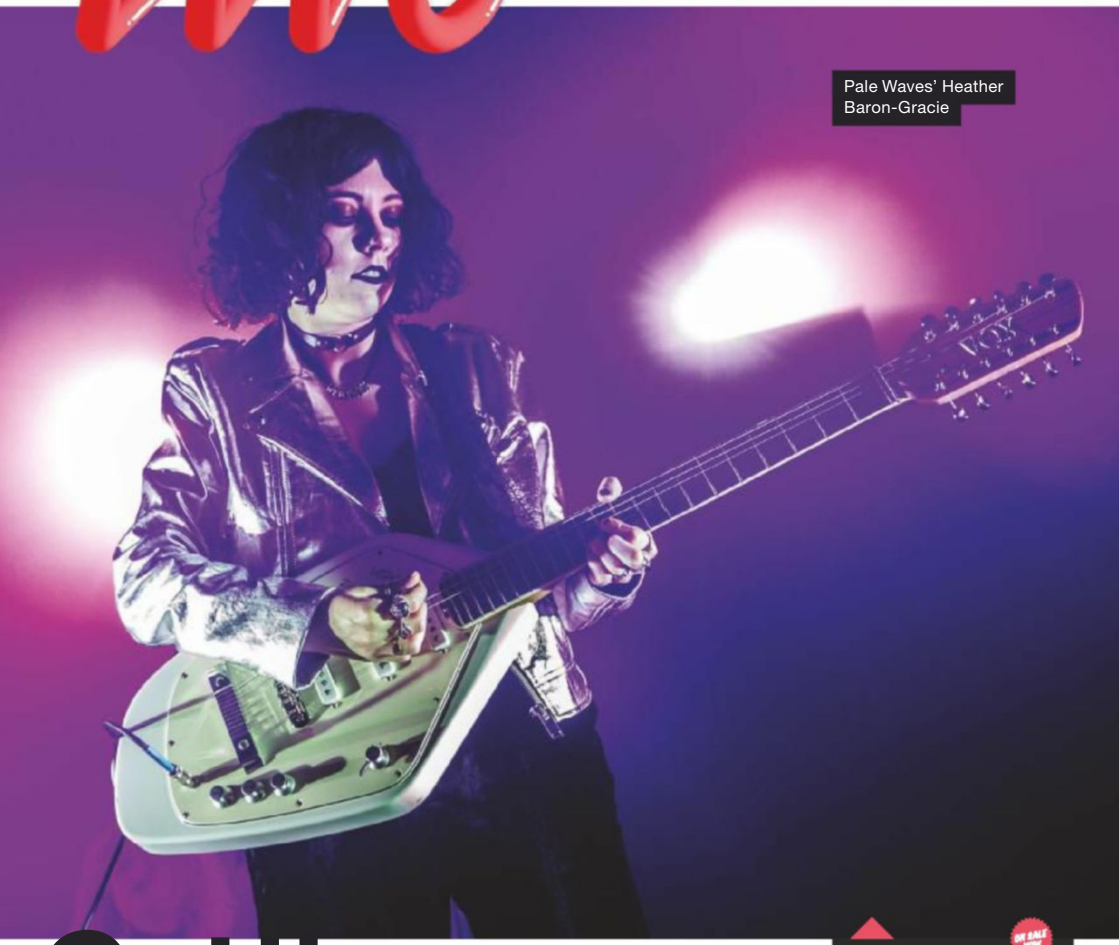
THIS WEEK'S BEST TICKETS AND GIGS



Pale Waves' Heather Baron-Gracie

Getting wavy

The Great Escape returns to showcase 2018's freshest talent

EVERY MAY FOR THE PAST 12 years, The Great Escape has popped up in venues across Brighton and Hove for one weekend, providing a platform for new bands to strut their stuff. Hundreds of acts play at TGE every year, and the festival has already announced a stellar first 50 on 2018's bill. Leading the charge is Pale Waves: these indie-pop genii from Manchester graced the cover of *NME* last year, and recently placed fifth in BBC's Sound of 2018 poll. Promiseland, a new favourite of The Strokes' Julian Casablancas, are bringing the industrial techno bangers. Other highlights include the feted MC-turned-guitarist Hak Baker and south London's prodigious rockers FEET (who were snapped up by former Maccabee Felix White's Yala! Records last year) – plus Pale Waves' riotous Dirty Hit labelmates, King Nun, who are bound to make a right racket. Many more acts are yet to be announced – keep an eye out.

ON SALE NOW

THE GREAT ESCAPE

Various venues, Brighton

MAY 17-19

LINE-UP HIGHLIGHTS: Pale Waves, Mist, FEET, MoStack, Promiseland, King Nun, Stella Donnelly, Hak Baker, Freak, Coin.

TICKETS: Three-day saver ticket £65

VO5 NME AWARDS ROAD TRIP WITH PROPAGANDA

FRIDAY JAN 26
THE AMAZONS
DJ SET
CAMBRIDGE: FEZ CLUB

SATURDAY JAN 27
THE AMAZONS
DJ SET
LINCOLN: THE ENGINE SHED

FRIDAY FEB 2
FRANK TURNER
DJ SET
GLASGOW: O2 ABC

SATURDAY FEB 3
IDLES
DJ SET
BRISTOL: THE FLEECE

SATURDAY FEB 10
MARMOZETS
DJ SET
LEEDS: THE WAREHOUSE

SATURDAY FEB 10
WOODY (BASTILLE)
DJ SET
LONDON: ELECTRIC BALLROOM

ADVANCE Q-JUMP TICKETS FROM NME.COM/TICKETS

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VO5 ZIG-ZAG. 19 Crimes. Estrella Galicia GIVE A GIG ID&C idcband.com ORANGE

VO5 NME AWARDS SHOWS 2018

SHE DREW THE GUN

PLUS BIG JOANIE

FRIDAY 26 JAN
OMEARA
LONDON

The Sherlocks
SOLD OUT

PLUS NEON WALTZ AND ODDITY ROAD

FRIDAY 9 FEB
ELECTRIC BALLROOM
LONDON

superfood

PLUS SUPPORT TBC

MONDAY 12 FEB
SCALA
LONDON

PEACE
SOLD OUT

PLUS SUPPORT TBC

TUESDAY 13 FEB
OMEARA
LONDON

PUBLIC ACCESS T.V.

PLUS WHENYOUNG AND FEHM

THURSDAY 22 FEB
OSLO
LONDON

FRANZ FERDINAND
SOLD OUT

PLUS SPECIAL GUEST
ALBERT HAMMOND JR

SATURDAY 24 FEB
O2 ACADEMY BRIXTON
LONDON

Park Hotel

PLUS THE MODERN STRANGERS AND RYDER THE EAGLE

TUESDAY 27 FEB
MOTH CLUB
LONDON

YONAKA

PLUS FINDLAY AND BLACKWATERS

WEDNESDAY 28 FEB
THE GARAGE
LONDON

PLUS SUPPORT TBC

THURSDAY 1 MAR
KOKO
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2 July

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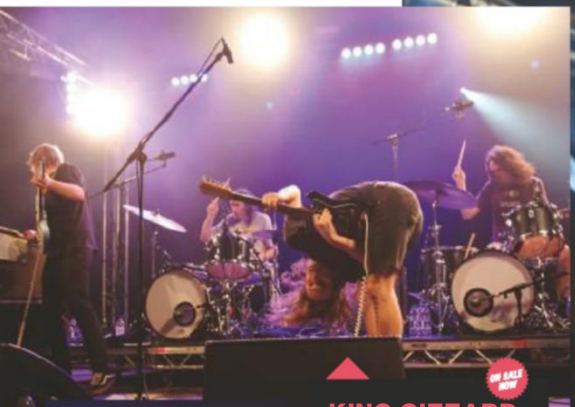

BIG SHAQ

THE WEEK'S BEST GIGS

RAE MORRIS

Pop experimentalist

MARCH

Thu 15 O2 Academy, Newcastle. **Fri 16** Art School, Glasgow. **Sat 17** Gorilla, Manchester. **Mon 19** Wedgewood Rooms, Portsmouth. **Tue 20** O2 Academy, Oxford. **Wed 21** O2 Institute, Birmingham. **Fri 23** Rescue Rooms, Nottingham. **Sat 24** Marble Factory, Bristol. **Sun 25** Concorde 2, Brighton. **Wed 28** Heaven, London.

TELL ME MORE: The 'Atletico' singer recently told *NME* she'd like to collaborate with Björk. **TICKETS:** £13-£18.15

KING GIZZARD & THE LIZARD WIZARD

Aussie psych merchants

FEBRUARY

Wed 21 O2 Academy Brixton, London. **Thu 22** Academy, Manchester. **Sun 25** O2 ABC, Glasgow.

TELL ME MORE: These guys released a mere five albums in 2017. Lazy. **TICKETS:** £19.50-£20.85

PORCHES

Blue synthpop man

APRIL

Thu 12 Rough Trade Records, Bristol. **Fri 13** Deaf Institute, Manchester. **Sat 14** Mono, Glasgow. **Mon 16** Village Underground, London.

TELL ME MORE: Aaron Maine's finessed third album dropped last week. **TICKETS:** £11-£12.65

PHOTOS: REX FEATURES, GETTY IMAGES

A. SAVAGE
Sun 28 Hope & Ruin, Brighton. **Mon 29** The Louisiana, Bristol. **Tue 30** Oporto, Leeds. **Wed 31** Broadcast, Glasgow. **Thu 1** Soup Kitchen, Manchester.

THE AMAZONS
Thu 1 O2 Institute, Birmingham.

ANTEROS
Wed 31 Clwb Ifor Bach, Cardiff.

BABY STRANGE
Sat 27 Priory Bar, Glasgow. **Mon 29** Jimmy's, Manchester. **Tue 30** The Louisiana, Bristol. **Thu 1** Muthers Studio, Birmingham.

BIG SHAQ
Thu 1 Halo, Bournemouth.

BOY AZOOGA
Sat 27 Clwb Ifor Bach, Cardiff.

COSMO PYKE
Wed 31 The Garage, London.

THE CRIBS
Fri 26 University, Hull. **Sat 27** The Empire, Coventry.

FEDDE LE GRAND
Fri 26 Ministry of Sound, London.

FRANK CARTER & THE RATTLESNAKES
Sun 28 Queen's University Student Union, Belfast.

GEORGE EZRA
Wed 31 Shoreditch Town Hall, London.

HAUS
Thu 1 Café Totem, Sheffield.

HONEYBLOOD
Mon 29 Bush Hall, London.

INHEAVEN
Wed 31 The Wedgewood Rooms, Portsmouth. **Thu 1** The Portland Arms, Cambridge.

ISAAC GRACIE
Sat 27 Portland Arms, London. **Sun 28** Exchange, Bristol. **Tue 30** Village Underground, London. **Wed 31** The Deaf Institute, Manchester. **Thu 1** Think Tank, Newcastle.

JESCA HOOP
Wed 31 Con Club, Lewes.

LADY GAGA
Wed 31 Arena, Birmingham. **Thu 1** Genting Arena, Birmingham.

THE LONE BELLOW
Mon 29 The Haunt, Brighton. **Tue 30** The Fleece, Bristol. **Wed 31** Village Underground, London.

LOW ISLAND
Sat 27 The Cellar, Oxford.

MADONNATRON
Tue 30 The Windmill, London.

MOGWAI
Thu 1 Northumbria University Student Union, Newcastle.

RACHEL SERMANNI
Fri 26 Summerhall, Edinburgh. **Sat 27** Carnegie Hall, Portmahomack.

RAT BOY
Wed 31 Barrowland, Glasgow.

SASASAS
Sat 27 O2 Academy, Oxford.

THE SHERLOCKS
Thu 1 O2 Academy, Leicester.

SOFI TUKKER
Sun 28 Stereo, Glasgow. **Wed 31** Heaven, London.

SPRING KING
Fri 26 The Forum, Tunbridge Wells. **Sat 27** The Booking Hall, Dover. **Tue 30** Moles, Bath. **Weds 31** Boileroom, Guildford. **Thu 1** The Horn, St Albans.

STEVE AOKI
Fri 26 O2 Academy Brixton, London. **Sat 27** Academy, Manchester. **Sun 28** University SU, Cardiff. **Mon 29** O2 Academy, Newcastle. **Tue 30** O2 Academy, Glasgow.

THIS IS THE KIT
Fri 26 Junction, Cambridge. **Sat 27** Con Club, Lewes. **Sun 28** O2 Academy, Oxford.

TRUDY AND THE ROMANCE
Fri 26 The Lexington, London. **Tue 30** Boileroom, Guildford.

WARMDUSCHER
Thu 1 The Windmill, London.

THE WHOLLS
Tue 30 Camden Assembly, London. **Wed 31** Actress & Bishop, Birmingham. **Thu 1** Lab, Northampton.

WILLIE J HEALEY
Thu 1 The Lexington, London

YOUNG FATHERS
Sun 28 Barbican Centre, London.

YUNGBLUD
Thu 1 The Garage, London.

Soundtrack of my life

Joe Cole

***Black Mirror* and *Peaky Blinders* star**

THE FIRST ALBUM I EVER BOUGHT

EMINEM

The Marshall Mathers LP

"My mate's dad bought it for me from HMV. I remember listening to it on repeat. I was in secondary school. I guess it was just the rebellious nature of it, I felt like it was very emotive and it actually brought out quite a lot of feeling in me, which obviously translates into what I'm doing now. I'm a big fan of lyrics – lyrics are the thing that move me in certain ways. When you have trials and tribulations as a youngster… that album did make some of that stuff go away in a strange sort of way."

THE FIRST SONG I REMEMBER HEARING

PETULA CLARK

Downtown

"We had a teacher at my primary school who used to play it every single day in our class and I suppose, looking back, it was like a mini ep of *Black Mirror*. Maybe he was trying to send us all mental, but he used to play this song every single day and every kid in our class in primary school knew the words. I think he did it with every class."

THE SONG THAT REMINDS ME OF STARTING OUT IN ACTING

DEVLIN

Life's F**ked Up

"When I first started acting I was actually working with the National Youth Theatre in London, doing anti-knife crime workshops, so I was listening to a lot of music that was around us all the time, around the guys I was working with, and the kids – lots of young grime artists from London. And this song I listened to a lot – I was maybe trying to channel something when I first started out, trying to attack the industry from a slightly different angle."

MY FAVOURITE SONG FROM THE *PEAKY BLINDERS* SOUNDTRACK

ANE BRUN

All My Tears

"At the end of season two, when Tommy Shelby's [Cillian Murphy] about to be shot and then he climbs out of his own grave and walks away – I thought that whole sequence was beautifully done by everyone involved. The music was just the icing on the cake in that particular moment."

THE SONG THAT MAKES ME WANT TO DANCE

CHIC

Good Times

"I saw them at Glastonbury last year and that was definitely a highlight. That's one that always gets me up on my feet, and it takes a lot sometimes."

THE FIRST GIG I WENT TO

MUSE

"I would have been about 15. It was at Earl's Court in London, we had standing tickets – it was me and a few of my really close mates. We had seats, but we jumped the barriers into the standing area and ran and got involved in all the commotion that was going on. That was a special one."

THE SONG THAT REMINDS ME OF *BLACK MIRROR*

THE SMITHS

Panic

"'Hang The DJ', the episode I'm in, is named after a lyric in this song. When I got the script, the first thing I did was Google 'Hang The DJ'. I thought it was some phrase I just wasn't aware of, but then I realised it was this song, and what this song meant to Charlie Brooker."

GO TO NME.COM FOR MORE SOUNDTRACKS

THE SONG I CAN'T GET OUT OF MY HEAD

J HUS

Did You See

"That phrase about the Benz – I can't get it out of my head for some reason, even though I've never driven a black Benz or a white Benz. Maybe one day."

THE SONG I WANT PLAYED AT MY FUNERAL

JOE COLE & FRIENDS

I Am From Kingston

"We wrote a song, me and a few friends. The lyrics go, "*We'll all get high and we'll probably all die / And as long as you're with me I'll be stealing a line*"… There's many rap verses. I won't go into it now."

LAST WORD

The wisdom of the NME archives

THIS WEEK

PJ HARVEY

Genius

JANUARY 28, 1995

"People think I'm some kind of axe-wielding cow from Hell who's angst-ridden and hates all men on the planet and I think that's the biggest joke of all."

INTERVIEW: LARRY BARTLEET. PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES